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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES SUPPORT OF MILL LEVY STABILIZATION COURT DECISION**

The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), representing the elected governing bodies of Colorado's 178 public school districts, today announced its support of the Colorado Supreme Court's decision on the mill levy stabilization case.

The Supreme Court reversed the trial court's judgment finding unconstitutional the amendments to the School Finance Act made by the legislature in 2007. Those amendments allowed local school districts to collect and expend revenues in excess of the property tax revenue limitations of article X, section 20 of the Colorado Constitution if local school district voters had approved raising the revenue limits.

"CASB considers this decision a victory for Democracy and services to children," said CASB President Bill Bregar, a school board member from Pueblo School District No. 70. "We commend Gov. Bill Ritter, Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien and the state legislature for taking leadership in proposing and passing SB 07-199 to ensure services children need to learn," he added. "We can stay on the path now with these services without cutting more deeply."

"SB 07-199 was intended to help children in Colorado's public schools, to restore taxpayer fairness across Colorado school districts, and to help those districts retain local control," said CASB Executive Director Ken DeLay. "In fact, the plan lowers local property tax rates in 34 school districts. It also stabilizes local funding sources for school districts and increases funding equity across all Colorado school districts."

Voters in 175 of 178 school districts have authorized de-Brucing measures, exempting their revenues and expenditures from the restrictions imposed by TABOR, but a fluke in state law prevented those votes from fully taking effect. SB 07-199 corrects some of the inequities in the school finance structure and gives some control back to local taxpayers.

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The Colorado Association of School Boards provides leadership, advocacy, training and services for effective school governance that leads to high student achievement. All 178 Colorado school districts are CASB members.